Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 1 is a high level block diagram of the hardware typically used in an embodiment of the present invention. Computer 150 incorporates a processor 152 utilizing a central processing unit (CPU) and supporting integrated circuitry. Memory 154 may include RAM and NVRAM such as flash memory, to facilitate storage of software modules executed by processor 152, such as transaction management system 200 (FIG. 3). Also included in computer 150 are keyboard 158, pointing device 160, and monitor 162, which allow a user to interact with computer 150 during execution of software programs. Mass storage devices such as disk drive 164 and CD ROM 166 may also be in computer 150 to provide storage for computer programs and associated files. Computer 150 may communicate with other computers via modem 168 and telephone line 170 to allowthe allow the computer 150 to be operated remotely, or utilize files stored at different locations. Other media may also be used in place of modem 168 and telephone line 170, such as a direct connection or high speed data line. The components described above may be operatively connected by a communications bus 172. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 3 is a simplified block diagram of a file format for packaged resource adapter 202, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The file format for a packaged resource adapter module 206 202 defines the contract between a connector

provider and deployer. A packaged resource adapter 202 includes Java classes and interfaces that are required for the implementation of both connector contracts and functionality of the resource adapter 202; utility Java classes for the resource adapter 202; native libraries required by the resource adapter 202; and any help files and documentation and descriptive meta information that ties all of the above elements together. In the preferred embodiment, a resource adapter 202 is be packaged using the Java Archive (JAR) format [[in to]] into an resource adapter archive (RAR) 302. For example, a resource adapter for EIS A can be packaged as an archive with a filename eisA.rar. The RAR file is structured as a hierarchical directory as follows. /RA-INF/ra.xml is a deployment descriptor 304. /RA-INF/classes/* is a directory 306 containing Java interfaces, implementation and utility classes as required by the resource adapter 202. /RA-INF/native-lib/* is a directory 308 containing any native libraries used by the resource adapter 202. Any platform dependent libraries 310 are in this directory.

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Please add a paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7:

-- Figure 4 is a flowchart diagram illustrating a high level overview of the method operations to provide a resource adapter, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Starting at operation 402, a deployment descriptor is packaged into the resource adapter. Interfaces, implementation classes, utility classes, native libraries, and descriptive meta information are also packaged into the resource adapter. Thereafter, in operation 404, resource adapter is deployed into a target operational environment based on properties defined in the deployment descriptor. As will be explained in more detail below, deployment of the resource adapter into the target operational environment includes configuring the resource adapter in the target operational environment to create a connection to an instance of

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an EIS, configuring application server mechanisms for transaction management, and

configuring security in the target operational environment. --

Please add two paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 6:

FIG. 3 is a simplified block diagram of a file format for packaged resource adapter

202, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

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FIG. 4 is a flowchart diagram illustrating a high level overview of the method

operations to provide a resource adapter, in accordance with one embodiment of the present

invention.